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2ND EDITION

The Story
of
THE
BLACK
WATCH.

42ND-73RD

BEING A SHORT
SUMMARY OF
BATTLES AND
INCIDENTS IN
THE CAREER OF
THE
ROYAL
HIGHLAND REGIMENT.



H.R.
1912





OFFICER

SERGEANT

**A BRIEF HISTORY OF
THE ROYAL
HIGHLAND REGIMENT
The Black Watch**

**BY
JOHN STEWART
A CAPTAIN IN THE REGIMENT**

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THE BLACK WATCH

UNIQUE in many other respects, the Black Watch is particularly so as regards its birth. It owes its being to no particular Highland chieftain or clan, but purely to the inborn love of the Highlanders for a warlike profession.

Early in the 18th century an Act of Parliament was passed which forbade any one to carry arms, and severe penalties were visited on those who broke this law.

It was about this time (1725) that certain 1725. Highland chieftains were commissioned to raise bodies of their clansmen, known as Independent Companies, to keep order in their different districts. This was no new idea, for in the reign of Charles II., in 1667, certain of these Independent Companies existed, but as these were disbanded in 1717, we cannot claim to descend direct from them; hence the Independent Companies of 1725 must be taken as those from which we are lineally descended.

Naturally, the carrying of arms by private individuals being prohibited, it stood to reason that young men of that time eagerly joined the newly formed Companies, and, as Stewart of Garth says, 'gladly availed themselves of engaging in a profession which relieved them from the sense of degradation and dishonour attached to the idea of being disarmed.' Thus it is seen that from its very birth the keynote of the regiment has been military zeal and love for a warlike profession. As Independent Companies, each wore the tartan of his Company Commander, and as most of these consisted of the dark green, blue, or black tartan, they got the local name of 'Dubh,' or Black, to distinguish them from the regular soldiers or 'Saighdearan Dearg' (Red Soldiers).

Many of the men were brothers, cousins, or near relatives to their officers, and it was no uncommon sight to see 'private men,' as they were called, riding to parade with their ghillies carrying their arms and military clothing.

Independent
Companies
amalgamated as
the 43rd
Regiment,
October
25th 1739.

From 1725 to 1739 the Independent Companies of The Watch policed the Highlands, keeping order and preventing raids between clans, and it was on October 25th of the latter year that King George II. issued a warrant, or 'Letter of Service,' forming a





1742
PRIVATE.

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1770
OFFICER.

Highland Regiment from them, and giving the regiment the number '43.'

John, twentieth Earl of Crawford, was appointed Colonel. This nobleman was a Lowlander, and for that very reason was appointed to command, in order that no feeling should be roused by the selection of a Commanding Officer from any particular Highland clan.

The uniform consisted of a scarlet coat and waistcoat with buff facings and white lace, a tartan plaid of twelve yards, plaited round the middle of the body to form a kilt, the upper part being fixed to the left shoulder (like our present plaid). The kilt was kept in position by a black leather belt. The head-dress was a blue bonnet with a tuft of feathers or piece of bear-skin on the left side (the commencement of what is now the feather bonnet). The hose were of cloth, red and white. Badger-skin sporrans and buckled shoes completed the dress. Uniform.

Government provided each man with a musket, bayonet, and broadsword, but many men supplemented this with a pair of pistols,¹ dirk, and target or shield. The officers carried muskets, and the sergeants Lochaber axes. Arms.

¹ Some of these are now in the Armoury in the Castle, Edinburgh, and a pair are in the Officers' Mess, Perth.

Assembly
of the
Regiment,
1740.

In May 1740, the whole regiment assembled for the first time in a field near Aberfeldy—where, in 1885, a monument was erected showing the figure of a soldier of ‘The Watch’ in the uniform of 1740—under Lieut.-Colonel Sir Robert Munro, of Foulis. For the next three years the regiment was employed on detachment in the Highlands, and in March 1743 it was reassembled at Perth and commenced its march to London to embark for Flanders. During the march, and whilst it was camped at Finchley, near London, an unfortunate mutiny broke out, owing to certain men of the regiment listening to and believing exaggerated stories told by paid agitators, with the result that a large number deserted and started to march back to Scotland. They were captured near Northampton, and on return to London were tried by court-martial, by order of which three were shot, and 200 more were drafted to other corps abroad, the remainder of the regiment, over 900 strong, embarking for Flanders.

Ordered to
London,
1743.

First
foreign
service,
Flanders,
1743.

For the next two years the regiment was stationed in different parts of the country, and everywhere it won the good opinion and confidence of all with whom it came in contact; so much so that one Colonel Gardiner wrote of it: ‘That regiment was

regarded as a trustworthy guard of property. Seldom were any of the men drunk, and they seldom swore.'

In 1745 the regiment received its baptism of fire at the battle of Fontenoy, which, although a victory for the French, was a dearly bought one. At the end of the day the regiment was ordered to cover the retreat of the British Army, doing this with such success, and in such excellent order, that Lord Crawford, who conducted the retirement, personally thanked it, saying it had acquired as much honour as if it had gained the battle.

Baptism
of fire,
Fontenoy,
1745.

An Incident at Fontenoy.

An interesting sidelight on the resource of the Highland soldier of that day is shown in the following incident. During the battle a man of the regiment was much annoyed by the attentions of a Frenchman who, secure behind cover, kept on firing at him. The Black Watch man, however, was equal to the occasion, for, taking cover himself, and loading his musket, he cautiously raised his bonnet on his ramrod, thus drawing his opponent's fire, who, thinking he had hit his man, exposed himself sufficiently long

to allow the Highlander to fire at and kill him.

Flanders,
1747-48.

1749,
number
changed to
42nd.

In October of the same year the regiment returned to England, and in June 1746 sailed for America, but the ships were driven back three times by contrary winds, and after an abortive expedition to France, it returned to Cork and was stationed at Limerick for three months. It next proceeded to Flanders in 1747, returning to England in December 1748, when it was very nearly sent to Scotland to be re-formed into Independent Companies, but happily this idea was abandoned, and it returned to Ireland ; where, in 1749, the number was changed, and it became known for the first time as the 42nd or Highland Regiment.

America,
1756.

For seven years the regiment was quartered in Ireland, for the most part broken up into detachments, and it was not till the middle of May 1756 that it again proceeded on active service, this time to America, where war had broken out between the French and British. After landing at New York, it was stationed at Albany, where it was well drilled in Indian warfare, returning in August 1757 to New York. •

Up to this time the French had been successful in Pennsylvania, and in order to counteract this, certain expeditions were

started against them, the regiment being detailed to form part of the one under General Abercromby against Ticonderoga, a fortified post between Lakes George and Champlain.

Ticonderoga.

Starting in June 1758, the expedition sailed up Lake George, and, landing without opposition, marched in four columns direct to Ticonderoga. The expedition being ill-equipped with information, and having to proceed through a densely wooded country, soon lost its way, and after a skirmish or two with the enemy, retired to the place of landing.

Expedition
against Ti-
conderoga,
1758.

Next morning the whole force, consisting of 6337 regulars and 9000 provincials, again advanced on Ticonderoga, which was reported to be indifferently fortified, and held by some 5000 French with a force of 3000 advancing to their assistance. The Intelligence Department of Abercromby's force must have been of the worst order, for on arrival at Ticonderoga he found the place well-nigh impregnable. Although such fortifications were unexpected, the British attacked with great vigour, being driven back time after time by the French fire, and were unable to penetrate a thick abattis

composed of large trees under the walls of the fort.¹ The 42nd, who had been detailed as part of the Reserve, chafed at being kept inactive, and at last, without orders, rushed to the attack, literally hewing their way through the abattis with their broadswords, and reached the walls of the fort; a few actually got into the place itself, but were all instantly killed. As a writer of that time said: 'The Highlanders, screaming with rage, rushed time after time on us, and it was not till their General had thrice sounded the retreat that they were prevailed on to abandon their attack.' In this manner the fight lasted five hours, the regiment losing 314 killed and 333 wounded, or 647 out of a total of 1100. An officer of the 55th Regiment, who, with the 42nd, formed the Reserve, wrote as follows: 'I am penetrated with the great loss and immortal glory acquired by the Highlanders engaged in this affair. Impatient for the fray, they rushed forward to the entrenchments, into which many of them actually mounted. Their intrepidity was rather animated than damped by witnessing their comrades fall on every side.

¹ It should be noted that the British force had no artillery, and were thus greatly handicapped, having no other means of breaking through the abattis.

They seemed more anxious to avenge the fate of their deceased friends than careful to avoid a like death. There is much harmony and fellowship between the two regiments.' Thus ended the first attempt on Ticonderoga, Abercromby's retirement being unmolested by the French. Many other writers of the time comment on the conduct of the regiment at this battle, but space is too small to give more than the above.

Whilst the 42nd were occupied in America, 1758, two incidents of very special interest to it had taken place in Scotland. The first was a Royal Warrant, which was promulgated in July 1758, conferring on it the title of 'Royal,' in recognition of 'His Majesty's satisfaction and approbation of the extraordinary courage, loyalty, and exemplary conduct of the Highland Regiment.' The second was the issue of a Warrant in July 1758, authorising the raising of a second Battalion, which was completed by October, when it mustered at Perth 840 strong, besides three companies who had previously embarked to reinforce the 1st Battalion in America. This 2nd Battalion was at once sent to the West Indies, the 1st Battalion not being employed again in 1758 after Ticonderoga.

The title
'Royal'
conferred,
and a
second
Battalion
raised.

2nd Battalion,
1759.

In 1759 the 2nd Battalion formed part of the force in the unsuccessful attack on Martinique, after which it shared in the expedition against Guadaloupe. No honour was granted to the regiment at the time, but 150 years later, in November 1909, by a Royal Warrant the words 'Martinique' and 'Guadaloupe' were added to those already on its colours, to commemorate the conduct of the regiment on these occasions.

Second Expedition to Ticonderoga, July 1759.

After this expedition, the 2nd Battalion proceeded to North America, where, early in July, at Oswego, it for the first time met the 1st Battalion, and the two remained together for some months, when both took part in the second expedition to Ticonderoga; but, curiously enough, it was again the lot of the 1st Battalion to participate in the attack and capture of that place, after a fight which only lasted for half an hour.

Capture of Montreal, 1760.

In August 1760, both Battalions were present at the capture of Montreal, which event gave the whole of Canada to Great Britain, as the French commander, the Marquis de Vaudreuil, surrendered himself, his troops, and Canada to the British. For the remainder of the year, and until the summer of 1761, nothing of importance occurred, but then both Battalions took part

in the expedition in the West Indies, which resulted in the taking of the Windward Islands by the British.

January 1762 saw both Battalions engaged in the attack and, this time, capture of Havannah, after which all men of the 2nd Battalion fit for service were drafted into the 1st Battalion, the senior officers of each rank being ordered to Scotland, and the juniors placed on half-pay. 1762,
Capture of
Havannah.

For the next four years the regiment was employed in various operations against the Indians, and in July 1767 embarked at Philadelphia, arriving at Cork in October. 1767,
Ireland. During the seven years' service in America it had lost 970 of all ranks in killed and wounded, and, owing to the large number of men who were given the opportunity, and elected to remain there, it returned a wreck of its former self.

In 1768 there must have been some change in the colours of the regiment, for by a Royal Warrant, dated 19th December of that year, it was authorised to bear thereon, 'In the centre of the colours, the King's cypher within the garter, and crown over it. Under it, St. Andrew with the motto "Nemo me impune lacessit." In the three corners of the second colour, the King's cypher and crown. On the grenadiers' Colours,
1768.

caps the King's crest, also St. Andrew, and on the drums and bells of arms the same device, with the rank of the regiment underneath.'

The dress of the regiment had, by this time, been slightly altered ; rather dull red was the colour of the jackets, with dark blue facings, and in Dublin, in 1769, Government issued white cloth for waistcoats instead of red as hitherto, the Colonel providing them with white goat-skin purses instead of the former sporrans of badger-skin. It was also about this time that the men began to supply themselves with tufts of black ostrich feathers in place of the disreputable piece of black bear-skin allowed by Government : the black belts were retained, and with its sombre tartan, to quote Colonel Stewart of Garth—' In these heavy colours and dark facings, the regiment had a far less splendid appearance at a short distance than English regiments, with white breeches and belts, but on a closer view the line was more imposing and warlike.' The sergeants wore silver lace (provided at their own expense) on their coats, and carried carbines instead of Lochaber axes as formerly.

As regards recruiting, Stewart of Garth remarks : ' At this period the regiment was

held in such respect in the Highlands, and young men so readily enlisted into it, that recruiting parties of other regiments, in order to allure the Highland youths, frequently assumed the dress of the old Highland regiment, for which they affected to be recruiting.'

From 1767 to 1775 the regiment was quar- Ireland, 1767-75.
tered in different parts of Ireland, employed

in keeping order between Catholics and Protestants, and between landlords and tenants, in those troublous times, and it was not till the latter year that, after an absence of thirty-two years, it landed in Scotland at Port Patrick, and marched to Glasgow. Its stay, however, was not long, for Independence having been declared by the North American colonists, the regiment was detailed to proceed thither, and em-

barked at Greenock on May 1st 1776, over 1000 strong. Shortly after starting, the transports became separated owing to a gale, and one was captured by an American privateer, who put a prize crew on board ; but a few days later the officers and men of the 42nd on board managed to overpower their captors, and eventually brought the ship safely into port, only to be again captured by the Americans, who vainly tried to get them to join the rebels, and it was not

American War of Independence, 1776.

till two years later that the members of this plucky band were exchanged for American prisoners, and rejoined the regiment. The remaining transports crossed the Atlantic safely, and the force landed at Staten Island on August 3rd. From 1776 to October 1783, when peace was declared, the regiment took part in the operations against the rebel colonists, being present at many fights, amongst others the battles of Brooklyn, 1776; Brandywine and Germantown, 1777; Monmouth, 1778; siege of Charlestown, 1780; and Yorktown, 1781. During the war desertions from other corps were frequent, but it is recorded that in the 42nd it was otherwise.

Incidents of the American War.

An interesting sidelight is recorded by Colonel Stewart, showing the detestation in which the Highlanders held a comrade who committed such a crime. A certain man, *the only one who deserted the regiment in the whole five years*, had asked leave of absence, which the Colonel was obliged to refuse; but the man was determined, and having left, he settled the business for which he went and returned to the regiment. He was tried and punished with a

certain number of lashes ; but his punishment did not end here, for his comrades, considering the honour of the regiment tarnished by his act, and having a horror of the castigation and the disgrace attached to it, refused to mess with him.

The following story is also taken from Colonel Stewart's book. A 42nd man, badly wounded, and left for dead after some skirmish, was found by one of the enemy, who, thinking he could make money by taking him to camp, hoisted him on his back, and was marching off when his burden, who was by no means dead, drew his dirk and compelled his carrier to convey him safely to the regiment, where he was made a prisoner.

The regiment lost 83 killed and 286 wounded during this war.

In October 1783, the 42nd moved to Halifax, Nova Scotia, where it remained till 1786, whence it proceeded to Cape Breton. It was in this year that the 2nd Battalion, then serving in India, was formed into a distinct regiment, and numbered 73rd, destined to return to its first battalion almost one hundred years later, with added distinctions and honours.

Remaining in Nova Scotia for some time, 1789, it was not till August 1789 that the regiment ^{move to} ^{England.} Halifax.

1790,
Glasgow.

1791,
Edinburgh.
1792, Fort
George.

embarked for England, landing at Portsmouth in October, after an absence of fourteen years, and proceeded to Finchley Common (the scene of the disastrous mutiny in 1743), on its march to Scotland, which was reached early the following year. In November of that year, after a few months' stay in Glasgow, the regiment moved to Edinburgh Castle, where it stayed for a year, proceeding thence to Fort George.

In 1793 it took part in a short expedition to Flanders, and later in the year was destined to form part of an expedition to the West Indies, which, however, did not come off.

The Red Hackle.

1794,
Flanders.

1795, Red
Hackle.

1794 is a memorable year in the history of the regiment, for it was in this year that it took part in the expedition to Flanders, where it gained, on the 4th of January 1795, its famous red vulture feather. An account of how this—our Red Vulture plume—was won is in existence, written by one Rowland Cameron, who was at the time a private in the regiment. It runs as follows: 'A movement of the army having taken place on the last days of December 1794, the 42nd, then quartered at Kiel, received orders to

march, late on the night of the 31st December, towards Bommel, distant about twenty miles on the opposite side of the river Waal, and arrived there about 4 o'clock on the 1st January 1795, and rested till daybreak, when an attack was made which drove the French across the river on the ice, and enabled the British to take up a position on the opposite bank. This was held till the evening of the 3rd, when a partial retirement took place, strong picquets being left, which were, however, overpowered by the French, and obliged to retreat northward towards the village of Guildermansen, where the 42nd was stationed, the French pursuing right up to the village. A certain Light Dragoon regiment with two field-pieces was stationed outside the village to cover the retirement of the picquets, but instead of doing this they *immediately retreated at a furious rate to the rear of the village, leaving the guns in possession of the French*, who commenced dragging them off. An order was conveyed to Major Dalrymple, commanding the 42nd, to advance and retake the guns, which was immediately complied with. The guns were dragged in by the corps, as the harness had been cut and the horses disabled.' Such was the act that won the red feather. Private Cameron goes on to say

that no notice was taken of the occurrence at the time, although it was rumoured that the regiment was to receive some distinction, and it was not till June 4th, on King George III.'s birthday, at Royston near Cambridge, that a box containing the feathers arrived, and they were distributed to the officers and men. Cameron quaintly ends up his account as follows: 'And on the evening of the 4th June the men were paid the arrears due for eighteen months, with a caution to keep close to their billets and be regular.' It may be added that the Light Dragoon regiment had a white plume with a yellow top substituted for their former red one.

Several attempts have been made at various times by other corps, Highland and otherwise, to adopt our famous Red Hackle, but without success, for, in language that admits of no misconstruction, a circular letter was issued by the Horse Guards in 1822 to every Commanding Officer in the Service, clearly laying down the fact that the Red Feather was solely and exclusively a badge of honour for the use of the 42nd Royal Highland Regiment.

1795, five
companies
to West
Indies, five
companies
to Gib-
raltar.

From Holland the regiment returned for a few months to England, and in October embarked for the West Indies. After several attempts had been made to start,

the fleet was dispersed by gales. Five companies of the 42nd reached Barbados safely, whilst the other five (with headquarters), after being driven into Portsmouth, were sent to Gibraltar.

The five companies in the West Indies 1797. were actively engaged there and at the capture of the islands of St. Lucia and St. Vincent, in 1797. They then returned to Portsmouth, and after a stay of a few weeks there rejoined headquarters at Gibraltar, whence, on the 24th October 1798, the regiment embarked for Minorca, and was present at the capture of that island, staying there till August 1800. On the 14th September it sailed for Gibraltar *en route* to join General Abercromby's expedition to Egypt against the French. This expedition, after many delays at Malta and elsewhere, eventually cast anchor in Aboukir Bay, off Alexandria, on March 1st 1801, but owing to a tremendous gale which sprang up, it was not possible to do anything, and not till a week later did the whole force land and fight the battle of Aboukir, at which the 42nd lost 190 killed and wounded.

1798,
Capture of
Minorca.

1801,
Egypt.

Battle of
Aboukir,
March 8th.

The Battle of Alexandria.

After this engagement the French retired towards the town of Alexandria, followed

by the British, and early on the morning of March 21st commenced the battle of Alexandria, one of the hardest fights in which the regiment has ever taken part. During the progress of the fight, two incidents of particular interest to the regiment occurred. The first was an attempt by two French dragoons to capture General Abercromby, and the second was the capture of the standard of Napoleon's so-called 'Invincible Legion,' by Major Stirling of the 42nd. It is true that in the vicissitudes of the fight the N.C.O. who had charge of the flag was wounded, and the trophy fell into other hands, but from the following account by an eyewitness, one Andrew Dowie, a private in the regiment, it will be seen that there is no doubt as to who first actually captured the flag which now hangs in Chelsea Hospital. Dowie says: 'On the morning of March 21st, an hour before daylight, the French made a grand attack on our line. We warmly engaged a column in front. Owing to there being no wind to carry away the smoke, a French regiment proved to our right, forming in our rear. This was observed by Major Stirling hearing their officers dressing their line in French, and he instantly ordered our right wing to the right about, gave them a volley



BATTLE OF ALEXANDRIA, MARCH 21, 1801.
Rescue of Sir Ralph Abercromby.



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and charged, pushing them forward at the point of the bayonet, and forcing them into the ruins of Cleopatra's Palace, into which we followed.

' While I was inside the ruins I observed an officer with a stand of colours surrounded by some thirty men. On looking round I noticed Major Stirling coming in with a number of our men. I ran and told him what I saw, and followed him to the French group. He advanced towards the French officer, grasped the colours, and carried them off with little resistance. Major Stirling then called Sergeant Sinclair of the Grenadier company and handed their colours to him. Sinclair asked if he should take them to headquarters. "No!" replied the Major, "take them to the rear of the left wing, display them there and show the villains what you have got." The left wing was then closely engaged with the French cavalry. During this time I saw Sir Ralph Abercromby engaged with three cavalrymen. One of our grenadiers named Barker, having spent his ammunition, charged his piece with loose powder, fired his ramrod, and killed one of the assailants, while Sir Ralph struck down another; the third made off. During that charge some of the French, seeing Sinclair with the colours,

attacked him, but he defended himself till he received a sabre cut on the back of his neck, when he fell with the colours amongst the killed and wounded. Sir J. Stuart's German regiment came up to our support, and in passing through the killed and wounded, one Anthony Lutz picked up the colours, stripped them off the staff, and wound them round his body, and in the afternoon carried them to headquarters, where, I believe, he received some money for them.'

Such is a private soldier's account of the doings of the regiment in this great battle, which practically ended the campaign in Egypt, for though Alexandria itself did not capitulate till September 2nd, Cairo and the remainder of Egypt were in the hands of the British very shortly after the battle of Alexandria. The 42nd lost 27 officers and 524 men killed and wounded in the battle.

England, 1801. Later in the year the regiment returned to England, and early the following year
Edinburgh, 1802. marched to Edinburgh. It was here that, on December 1st 1802, new colours were presented by Lt.-General Vyse, and on them appeared for the first time the Sphinx and the word 'Egypt,' for services in the late campaign. About this time a second Battalion was raised under a peculiar Act of Parliament, which authorised the raising of

a body of men by ballot to be called 'The Army of Reserve,' which was practically conscription. The 42nd was not destined, however, to remain long in its native country, for on May 31st 1803, both Battalions embarked at Leith, and landing at Harwich, marched to Weely, where they remained till September 1805, when the 1st Battalion proceeded to Portsmouth and embarked for Gibraltar, reaching there in November.

England,
1803-5.

From Gibraltar the 1st Battalion embarked in July 1808 to join the British army at Lisbon, and to take part in those operations in Spain and Portugal, now known as the Peninsular War, which were destined to last for over six years.

Gibraltar,
Nov. 1805
to July
1808.

Corunna.

In October 1808, Sir John Moore started with a force of some 18,600 men, of which the 1st Battalion formed part, on his world-famous expedition into Spain, in order to assist the Spaniards to resist Napoleon, who, under the cloak of friendship, had not only overrun the country with his troops, but had placed his brother Joseph on the Spanish throne. Sir John and his army advanced, unknown to the French,

Corunna,
Jan. 16th
1809.

into the heart of Spain, relying on the co-operation of the Spanish troops, which, however, was not forthcoming, and at last reached Salamanca to find an overwhelming French force not three days' march from him. So, with no allies, and his men weakened by long and arduous marches, Sir John decided to send word to his transports to proceed to Corunna in the north of Spain, and to retire himself on that place, which plan he eventually carried out, but with the greatest difficulty, for not only were the roads almost impassable, but by this time the French, having become aware of his presence in the country, detached a large force under Soult to crush him, and it was this army that hung on his heels during the whole of the retirement, and which was eventually beaten at Corunna before the British force embarked.

In the retreat the 42nd held the post of honour as rearguard, and was continually in touch with the enemy. Corunna itself was reached on January 16th, and on the following day was fought the battle of that name, which ended in the defeat of the French, and the deplorable death of the British commander. The expedition embarked the same night, and after a boisterous passage reached England in a pitiable

condition. The losses of the regiment at Corunna were 215 killed and wounded.

After a few months' rest at Shorncliffe, the 1st Battalion again took the field, forming part of the ill-fated Walcheren Expedition, returning to Dover the following September with only 204 men fit for duty out of 758 who six weeks previously had sailed from England.

England,
1809.

Walcheren
Expedi-
tion,
July 1809.

From Dover the 1st Battalion was moved to Scotland, remaining there till August 1811, when it embarked for England, and on arrival was quartered at Lewis, till it marched to Portsmouth and embarked for Portugal in April 1812.

Scotland,
1810.

England,
1811.

Meanwhile the 2nd Battalion, which had been stationed in Ireland since 1805, was early in 1809 ordered to embark for Portugal.

2nd Bat-
talion,
Ireland,
1805,
Portugal,
1809.

It would take too long here to give even a short account of the doings of both Battalions in the protracted struggle with the French which took place between 1809 and 1814. It will be sufficient to give, in as few words as possible, the actual battles in which either Battalion took part.

September 27th 1810, the 2nd Battalion took part in the battle of Busaco, and on 3rd May 1811 was present at Fuentes d'Onor, followed on January 19th 1812 by

September
27th 1810,
Busaco.
May 3rd
1811,
Fuentes
d'Onor.

Jan. 19th
1812,
Ciudad
Rodrigo.

the siege of Ciudad Rodrigo. In April of this year the 1st Battalion joined the 2nd in Portugal, just before the battle of Salamanca. The 1st Battalion was brought up to strength by receiving all the men of the 2nd Battalion ; the officers and staff of the latter being ordered to Scotland, where they remained till reduced in 1814.

Salamanca,
July 22nd
1812.
Siege of
Burgos.
Pyrenees,
Nivelle,
Pampeluna,
Passage of
Nive,
1813.
Orthes,
Feb. 27th
1814.
Toulouse,
April 10th
1814.

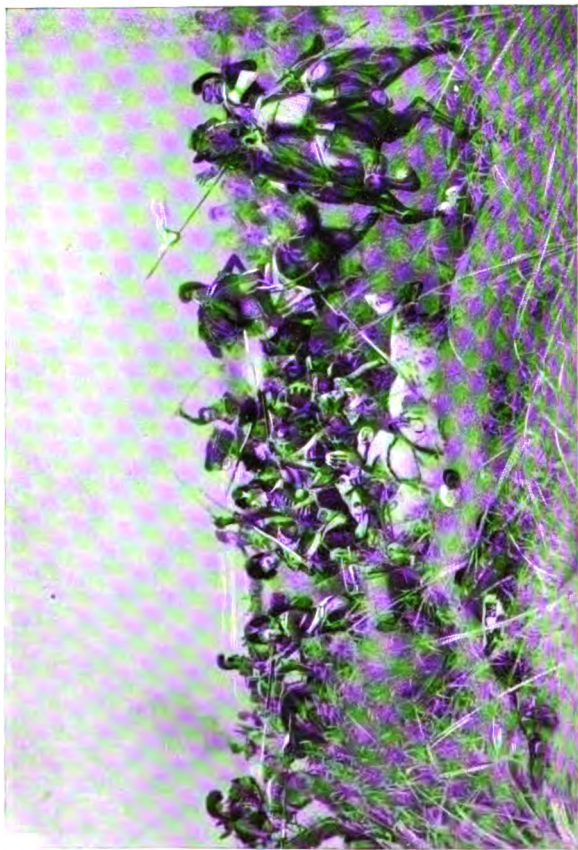
The 1st Battalion was by this means brought up to a strength of 1160 rank and file fit for service, and was present at the battle of Salamanca on July 22nd, and at the siege of Burgos in September and October of the same year. In 1813 it took part in the many hard-fought skirmishes in the Pyrenees, was at the battle of Nivelle 10th October, Pampeluna 31st October, and the attempts at, and subsequent passage of the river Nive in December. At Orthes, on February 27th 1814, the regiment lost 158, and again, at Toulouse, on April 10th, 429 killed and wounded. This battle, the last stand of Napoleon's marshal the far-famed Soult, brought the war to a close. Napoleon acknowledged himself beaten by the Allies, and abdicated, Wellington's army marched through France, and the 42nd, leaving the south of France in June, proceeded to Ireland, where it remained till summoned the following May to take part in the final over-

Ireland,
June 1814
to May
1815.

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QUATRE BRAS, JUNE 16, 1815.

throw of Napoleon, who, having escaped from Elba, again challenged England and her Allies at Quatre Bras and Waterloo.

The Peninsular War added many honours to those already on the colours, 'Corunna,' 'Fuentes d'Onor,' 'Pyrenees,' 'Nivelle,' 'Nive,' 'Orthes,' 'Toulouse,' and 'Peninsula' being granted shortly after peace was declared, 'Busaco' being added by Royal Warrant in 1910.

Whilst in Ireland, the only matter worth noting in the history of the regiment was the disbandment, in October 1814, of the 2nd Battalion at Aberdeen, after having existed for twelve years. Disbandment of 2nd Battalion at Aberdeen, Oct. 1814.

May 1815 saw the 42nd once more start on active service against the French. Embarking at Cork, it reached Brussels early in June, and on the 16th of that month took part in the battle of Quatre Bras, the prelude to the final overthrow of Napoleon at Waterloo. Flanders, May 1815.

Quatre Bras and Waterloo.

At Quatre Bras the regiment was drawn up in a field of wheat nearly breast high, and owing to the great similarity of uniform between the French cavalry and that of Quatre Bras, 16th June 1815.

our Allies, the Prussians and Belgians, a large body of Frenchmen were allowed to approach close to it before their nationality was discovered. No proper formation was possible, and the enemy, seeing the imperfect state for resistance in which the regiment was, attacked with great vigour; but the men, forming themselves into small squares, some even fighting back to back, resisted all attacks, every man fighting on his own ground till he fell or forced the enemy to retreat. At last, finding they could make no impression, the enemy partially drew off, thus allowing the regiment to complete its correct formation, and finally, after a few more half-hearted attacks, the French retired, leaving the field in possession of the Allies. The loss to the regiment was 42 officers and men killed and 246 wounded. In Colonel Stewart of Garth's *History* appears the following interesting note regarding the battle:—"In the case of men taken off their guard and nearly surprised, as the 42nd were, rushing up in a hurried formation, and rapidly grouped in support of each other, the French expected an easy victory. Their officers frequently called out, "Why don't you surrender? Down with your arms, you can see you are beaten." Speaking of this affair after the





AN EPISODE OF WATERLOO, JUNE 18, 1815.

battle, some of the French prisoners expressed their surprise. Your people must be very ignorant ; they knew not when to surrender, although conquered. We beat them, yet they stood.'

Two days later at Waterloo, although engaged all day, the loss sustained by the 42nd was not severe, 5 men being the number returned as killed and 45 wounded. The Duke of Wellington paid a never-to-be-forgotten tribute to the conduct of the regiment in his Quatre Bras and Waterloo despatch. He only mentions four British regiments and one battalion of Hanoverians in it, and he says : ' I must particularly mention the 28th, 42nd, 79th, and 92nd regiments, and the battalion of Hanoverians.' For its services in these two battles the regiment was authorised to add the word ' Waterloo ' to those already borne on its colours, and the men were allowed to reckon two years' service towards additional pay and pension.

Waterloo,
June 18th
1815.

An episode of Waterloo in which a man of the regiment was concerned is worth recording. The Colour-Ensign of the 92nd Highlanders having been killed, the French, who were coming up, would certainly have possessed themselves of the colour he carried had not a grenadier of the 42nd rushed

forward and, finding he could not disengage the colour from the dead officer's hands, caught up both officer and colour and carried them to a place of safety.

The Colonel of the French 'Garde Impériale' was so impressed with this act that he signalled to his men not to fire at the retiring grenadier.

Paris, 1815,
July to
November.

Dover,
Dec. 17th
1815.

After spending several months in Paris, forming part of the Army of Occupation, the 42nd marched to Calais, and from thence *via* Dover to Sunderland, where it remained for the winter. Speaking of various matters relating to this time, Colonel Stewart states that during his seventeen years' service in the 42nd, twenty-eight sergeants were appointed officers, a number probably larger than any other corps; and further on he says that he had often heard mothers and sisters, when mourning over the absence of their sons and brothers, say, 'Well, if I should never see his face again, he is a companion of brave soldiers and honourable men, he belongs to the Black Watch,'—a consolation and sentiment to be fostered and encouraged.

With the downfall of Napoleon England entered into a term of peace destined to remain unbroken till 1854, and until then the regiment had no opportunity of adding

fresh laurels to those it had already gathered. From Sunderland it moved to Edinburgh in 1816, where it met with a tremendous ovation. Edinburgh 1816.

In September of the same year the 42nd moved to Ireland, where it remained till 1825, thence to Gibraltar, where, and in various other parts of the Mediterranean, it remained till, while stationed at Corfu in June 1836, it sailed for England, touched at Portsmouth, sailed again for Leith, and landing there on September 7th, occupied Edinburgh Castle. The regiment, however, was not destined to remain there long, for on June 14th of the following year it was moved to Glasgow, whence it proceeded to Ireland, and on August 29th 1840 again sailed for the Mediterranean, where it was stationed at various places till 1847. Several changes had taken place in the matter of arms and equipment during the above period, a few of which are worth noticing. In 1825 the 'Tower' musket was issued to the 42nd, it being the only corps to receive it; and in 1840 it was the first to receive the percussion musket, which superseded the flint-lock. A good many changes in uniform had also occurred. The white drill jacket and spats were introduced in 1821 and 1826 respectively, and have been worn ever since. The Ireland, 1816-25.
Gibraltar and Mediterranean, 1825-36.
Edinburgh, 1836 to June 1837.
Glasgow, 1837 to April 29th 1839.
Ireland, 1839-40.
Mediterranean, 1840-47.
Changes in arms and equipment, 1816-40.

A second
battalion
formed,
1842.

Bermuda,
1847.

Nova
Scotia,
1851-52.

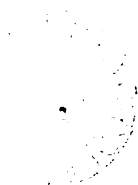
Scotland,
1852-53.

England,
1853 to
May 1854.

Operations
in the
Crimea,
1854-55.

42nd sergeants wore silver lace up to 1830. The feather bonnet assumed its present size before this time, but the date is uncertain ; probably, however, it may be said to date from the time the regiment received its Red Hackle, but the tails remained short, not coming below the bottom edge of the diced border, till about 1840. In April 1842 the regiment was augmented from ten to twelve companies, and once more formed two battalions, the 2nd being sent to join the 1st in Malta the following year.

Both battalions were sent to Bermuda in 1847, where in 1850 the 2nd Battalion was merged into the 1st. In 1851 the regiment moved to Nova Scotia, whence it sailed for Scotland on May 29th 1852, and arriving at Greenock on June 19th, proceeded by rail (for the first time) to Stirling, furnishing detachments for Perth and Dundee. The 42nd was destined again to spend only a few months north of the Tweed, for on April 21st 1853 it moved to Weedon, and from thence to Chobham Camp, Gosport, on March 7th 1854 to Portsmouth, where on May 19th it embarked for Turkey, to take part in the operations undertaken by England, France, Turkey, and Sardinia against Russia, and known as the Crimean War.





Crimea.

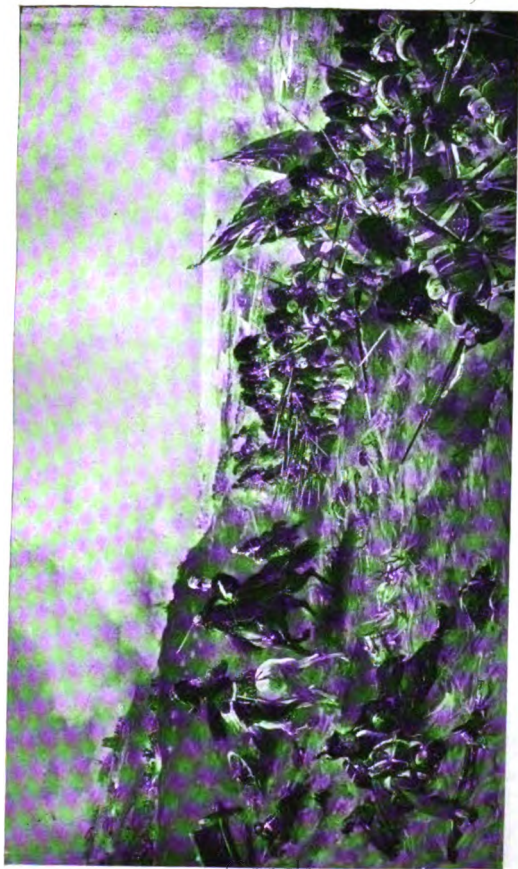
Landing at Scutari in Turkey on June 9th, the 42nd was brigaded with the 79th and 93rd Highlanders, commanded by General Sir Colin Campbell, afterwards Lord Clyde, and formed the famous Highland Brigade, which shortly afterwards so distinguished itself on the slopes of the Alma. Moving from Scutari to Varna, the brigade eventually landed near Eupatoria in the Crimea on September 14th 1854, and the whole of the allied army having landed, it proceeded on the 19th to march on Sebastopol, encountering the Russians on the 20th, on which day was fought the battle of Alma. In this battle the Highland Brigade were detailed to protect the left flank of the Allies. Any one who wishes to do so may read detailed accounts of the fight, and the doings of the Highland Brigade, in the scores of books which speak of it. Suffice it here to say that with the 42nd, 79th, and 93rd Highlanders, Sir Colin 'vanquished and put to flight eight Russian battalions and compelled the retreat of four more.' Sir Colin's words to his brigade just before it advanced to the attack are worth recalling. 'Now men,' he said, 'you are going into action: remember this, whoever is wounded—no matter what

Alma,
Sept. 20th
1854.

his rank may be—must lie where he falls till the bandsmen come to attend him. No soldiers must go carrying off wounded comrades. If any man does such a thing his name shall be stuck up in his parish church. The army will be watching you ; make me proud of my Highland Brigade.’ It may be presumed that ‘ the old Brigadier,’ as Sir Colin styled himself, *was* proud of it, for on being congratulated by Lord Raglan, the Commander-in-Chief, after the battle, he asked as a favour to be allowed to wear a Highland bonnet with his brigade while he had the honour to command it, a request which was instantly granted, and from that time forward, whilst in command of the Highland Brigade, Sir Colin wore the feather bonnet on all occasions. The making of it was entrusted to the 42nd, and its hackle was composed of red and white feathers, the top third being red for the 42nd, and the other two-thirds white for the 79th and 93rd. After the battle of Alma, in which the 42nd lost 41 men killed and wounded, it took part in the battle of Balaclava on October 25th 1854, and for the remainder of that year, and till May 1855, was employed in road-making and other necessary but irksome duties of routine.

Battle of
Balaclava,
October
25th 1854.

The following is from a letter written by



'FORWARD, 42ND.' ALMA, SEPTEMBER 20, 1854.
(By permission of Archibald Ramsden, Ltd., Leeds.)

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a 42nd man after the battle of the Alma : ' After we had taken the heights (mind, the "forty-twa" were the first to crown it) the Duke of Cambridge, who commanded the Guards Brigade, came up just as if he were one of our chums, and at the same time up came a colonel on horseback. "I have to thank your Royal Highness for saving us to-day," says he. "Oh," said the Duke, "you must not thank *me*, for these, pointing to us, are the gentlemen that won the day and saved you." The Colonel replied, "And Sir Colin, too." "Ah," said the Duke, "Sir Colin's a brick." "Ay, my lord," said a sergeant of ours, "and you are a brick yourself"; and at that we gave him three times three.'

On May 3rd, and again on May 22nd, 1855, the regiment embarked with the two expeditions to Kertch, and after returning from the second took up its position before Sebastopol. On the failure of the assault on the Redan, September 8th, the Highland Brigade took over the defence of the trenches, and were destined to lead the assault on the following day; but during the night a sergeant of the 42nd, surprised at the silence of the Redan, ventured into it followed by others of the regiment, and found that the Russians had evacuated it.

England,
July 24th
1856 to
Aug. 1857.

After the fall of Sebastopol the 42nd returned to Kamara, remaining there till peace was declared, when it returned to England, where, at Aldershot, it was reviewed by Her Majesty Queen Victoria, and proceeding to Dover remained there till summoned to take part in quelling the Mutiny in India. For its services in the Crimea the regiment was permitted to add the words 'Alma' and 'Sebastopol' to those on its colours.

Indian Mutiny.

India,
1857-68.

On July 31st the 42nd moved by rail to Portsmouth, where, on August 4th, it was again reviewed by Her Majesty, and on the 14th embarked in three transports for India, landing at Calcutta on November 2nd, and on December 6th the headquarters and five companies of the regiment, after a march of nearly eighty miles in fifty-six hours—a good performance in a tropical country—took part in the battle of Cawnpore, and on the 8th and 9th in the affair at Seria Ghaut, where the enemy were overtaken and seventeen of their guns captured, together with an enormous amount of baggage. It was here that the regiment captured its well-known gong, which, ever since, has tolled the hours



INDIAN MUTINY, 1857.



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in every station and country where the Black Watch has been quartered. It was found by some men of the Grenadier Company, then Captain John Drysdale's, lying in some straw at the bottom of a bullock-cart. Some say it belonged to the notorious Nana Sahib, the worst of the mutineer leaders, and others that it is a sacred gong from some temple; at any rate, it was of sufficient value for a certain Indian prince to offer the regiment a large sum of money for it some years later.

In 1858 the 42nd saw much fighting at 1858. various places, the chief of these being the siege and capture of Lucknow, where Captain F. E. H. Farquharson gained the Victoria Cross on 9th March, the attack on Fort Rooyah on the 15th April, where Quartermaster-Sergeant John Simpson, Lance-Corporal Alexander Thomson, and Privates James Davis and Edward Spence also won that coveted distinction, as did also Colour-Sergeant William Gardiner at the battle of Bareilly on May 5th, for saving the life of his commanding officer, and Privates Walter Cook and Duncan Miller at Sissaya Ghaut on January 15th 1859, where 37 men of 'F' Company, commanded by Captain John Lawson (and to this day known as 'LAWSON'S MEN'), kept

Sissaya
Ghaut,
January
15th 1859.

two thousand mutineers at bay from sunrise to sunset, a feat worthy to rank with any other ever accomplished by the regiment. Early in the day Captain Lawson was mortally wounded, Landells, his Colour-Sergeant, and the remaining N.C.O.'s were killed. Privates Walter Cook and Duncan Miller then took charge of the survivors, and to them much of the credit for the splendid resistance of this little band of heroes is due.

Shortly after this exploit Lord Clyde (formerly Sir Colin Campbell), the Commander-in-Chief, issued a General Order drawing attention to the high state of discipline shown on this occasion by 'F' Company, saying it was beyond all praise.

The Mutiny being suppressed about March of this year, the 42nd returned to Bareilly, remaining there all the following year, where, on New Year's Day 1861, it received new colours from Sir Hugh Rose, Commander-in-Chief of India, on which for the first time appeared the word 'Lucknow,' in recognition of the regiment's services in the suppression of the Mutiny. Sir Hugh took advantage of this occasion, and calling out 'F' Company, 'Lawson's Men,' thanked them for their valour at Sissaya Ghaut, and at the same time desired the Commanding

Bareilly,
March
1859.
New
colours,
January
1st 1861.

Officer to have it recorded in each man's small-book, under the heading of 'Distinguished Conduct,' that he had served at Sissaya Ghaut.

On September 12th a notification was received from England which was exceedingly gratifying to the regiment, namely, that Her Majesty Queen Victoria had been graciously pleased to authorise the Royal Highland Regiment to be distinguished, in addition to that title, by its earliest name, 'The Black Watch.' The following five years saw the 42nd stationed in various parts of India, and on January 27th 1868 it sailed for England, eventually disembarking at Burntisland in March 1868. From the time it had embarked at Leith in 1803, upwards of sixty-five years before, the regiment only spent fifteen months in Edinburgh, six in 1816, and nine in 1836-37, and even now it was destined to remain only twenty-one months, for on November 9th it embarked at Granton, reaching Aldershot on the 12th, where in July 1870 it again received new colours from the hands of His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge.

'The Black Watch' conferred, September 12th 1861.

Scotland, March 7th 1868.

England, November 1869.

Moved to Dartmouth in the autumn of 1873, the regiment went from thence to Portsmouth, where, on December 3rd, it sailed for the Gold Coast, arriving at Cape

West Africa, 1873.

Coast Castle, West Africa, on December 17th.

Ashanti.

1874.

The expedition was not a very long one. Disembarking on January 3rd and 4th 1874, the 42nd took part in the immediate advance on Coomassie, which was captured and burnt on February 4th, the expedition leaving the following day for the coast, where the regiment embarked on the 27th February, reaching England on March 23rd, and was stationed at Portsmouth, proceeding to Windsor a week later to be reviewed by Her Majesty.

H. M. Stanley, the celebrated explorer, at that time war correspondent for the *New York Herald*, writing of the advance on Coomassie, says : ' The conduct of the 42nd on many fields has been belauded, but mere laudation is not enough for the gallantry which has distinguished this regiment in action. It was the audacious spirit and true military bearing on the part of the Highlanders, as they moved down the road to Coomassie, which challenged admiration this day. Very many were borne back seriously wounded, but the regiment never halted nor wavered ; on it went, until the Ashantis, perceiving it useless to fight



ASHANTI, 1874.
Special Service Kit.



against men who would advance, heedless of ambuscades, rose from their coverts and fled panic-stricken into Coomassie, being shot down whenever they showed themselves to the hawk-eyed Scots. One man, Thomas Adams, exhibited himself eminently brave amongst these brave men; he led the way into Coomassie, keeping himself about ten yards ahead of his regiment, bounding on the road like a well-trained hound on a hot scent.'

Ordashu.

The following also is interesting regarding the battle of Ordashu, and is taken from the 'Memoirs of Sir Archibald Alison,' *Cornhill Magazine*, 1907:—'Colonel M'Leod, 42nd, was in charge of the advance guard. . . . He asked for the reinforcement of his own regiment, the 42nd, which having, as has been said, suffered severely at Amoaful, had been this day held in reserve. This was, of course, at once conceded, and a panting A.D.C. was at once sent off hot-foot to summon the Highlanders. When they arrived at the open space, they were naturally rather blown with their rapid march and a little excited at the prospect of immediate fighting. Colonel M'Leod knew the

job that had to be done, and was resolved that his regiment should be absolutely cool and steady before they undertook it. To the astonishment of all, he ordered 'Markers out,' and formed the 42nd in a most accurate parade line, which he corrected and dressed till it stood as firm and motionless as if it had been awaiting an inspection at Aldershot. Sir Garnet Wolseley, and even Sir Archibald Alison, began to be impatient of the delay, especially as the enemy's bullets were humming through the trees, but the experienced Scottish warrior would not move until his trusty battalion was absolutely in hand, and showed no sign of bustle. Then only did he give the order to advance. . . . 'Pipes to the heads of companies,' and, well knowing the tremendous effect of a British shout, 'the men will cheer.'

Then such an exciting episode was seen as stirred the blood and called forth the admiration of the spectators. The companies wheeled off, the skirl of the pipes roused the Scotsmen to a fury, and, like a disciplined avalanche, they rushed forward. . . . Such and so determined a movement could not but be victorious. In the words of Sir Archibald's own despatch, 'Without stop or stay the 42nd rushed on cheering, their

pipes playing, their officers to the front; ambuscade after ambuscade was carried, village after village won in succession, till the whole Ashantis broke and fled in the wildest order down the road to Coomassie.'

For gallant and distinguished conduct at the battle of Amoaful, on 31st January 1874, Lance-Sergeant Samuel M'Gaw was **v.c.** awarded the Victoria Cross, and by Her Majesty's command the word 'Ashantee' was added to the distinctions on the colours.

On November 14th the regiment embarked for Malta, where it remained four years, occupying successively all the barracks in the island, and in November 1878 it proceeded to Gibraltar, from whence, after a stay of about six months, it returned to England, and was stationed at Parkhurst, moving from there to Aldershot in 1880, and again to Edinburgh in May 1881, where a change in the history of the regiment took place.

On July 1st of this year all infantry units were ordered by Royal Warrant to discard their numerical titles, and officially the well-known 42nd disappeared, and at the same time the 73rd, or Perthshire Regiment, losing the number it had held for nearly one hundred years, returned to its

Malta,
November
27th 1874
to 1878.

Gibraltar,
1878 to
June 1879.
England,
June 1879
to July
1882.

Title
changed,
and 73rd
Perthshire
infantry,
formerly
2nd Bat-
talion,
came back

as 2nd Battalion,
July 1st
1881.

parent regiment, and again became the 2nd Battalion the Black Watch ; an act on the part of the authorities which, though not relished by many when it occurred, must now, in the light of history, be acknowledged to have been one of the best of the radical changes brought about by the Government of the time.

It is appropriate here to give very shortly an account of the 2nd Battalion from the time it left the regiment in 1786, to found a reputation for itself as the 73rd, till its return.

2nd Battalion,
1781.

In July 1781 the then 2nd Battalion 42nd was embodied at Perth under Lieut.-Colonel Norman M'Leod of M'Leod, who, with seven other officers, had been transferred to it from the 1st Battalion. It proceeded to Fort George, where, in the autumn of the same year, it embarked for South Africa to join an expedition against the Dutch, which, however, was abandoned ; and trouble having broken out between the British and French in India, it proceeded thither, landing at Bombay in February 1782.

India,
1782.

Capture
and siege of
Mangalore,
1783.

The following year the battalion took part first in the capture of Mangalore, and afterwards in the defence of that place when besieged by the Sultan Tippoo Sahib, with a large French and native army. The

garrison, numbering under 400 British troops and 1500 Sepoys, all under Colonel Campbell, 2nd Battalion, kept Tippoo's army at bay for three months, till the siege was raised by peace being declared between France and England, when the French troops left Tippoo, who was then obliged to agree to the garrison being provided with provisions, etc.

The siege dragged on till the end of 1784. January 1784, when the garrison, reduced by casualties and sickness to 160 British and 646 native troops, was obliged to surrender, and were allowed by Tippoo to march out with all the honours of war.

Although it was unsuccessful, this resistance was such a remarkable performance, that twelve years later authority was granted to the 2nd Battalion, which by that time had become the 73rd Highland Regiment, for the words 'Mysore' and 'Mangalore' to be placed on its colours.

This year saw the change from 2nd Battalion the Royal Highland Regiment to the 73rd, but the uniform remained the same, with the exception that green facings were substituted for the royal blue. In 1791 war was declared against Mysore, and the regiment took part in the operations under General Abercromby which ended in Tippoo

Mysore,
1791-92.

Ceylon,
1795-99.

Seringa-
patam,
May 4,
1799.

Sahib's defeat, and a treaty whereby he gave up half his country to the British. An expedition under General Stewart was sent in 1795 against the Dutch in Ceylon. The 73rd, forming part of it, took part in the siege and capture of Trincomali, the whole colony being surrendered in February of the following year. The 73rd remained in Ceylon till 1799, when it sailed for Madras, and joined the army under Lord Harris, destined finally to break the power of Tippoo Sahib for good and all. The British force, numbering about 42,000, half of which were natives, advanced from Bangalore on Seringapatam, where Tippoo awaited them with 50,000 troops. After various minor engagements, in which the 73rd took part, Seringapatam was stormed and taken on May 4, with a loss to the British of 1500, and to the enemy of over 10,000. The actual assault was carried out under the direction of Major-General David Baird, who was destined later to be associated with the 42nd during the retreat to and battle of Corunna. Here again the 73rd added another battle honour to those already on its colours, for authority was given for the name 'Seringapatam' to be inscribed thereon.

For the next six years the 73rd was

stationed at various places in the Madras Presidency, and in 1806 sailed for England, where it arrived late in the year, and marched to Stirling. In the following year a second battalion was formed, and the 1st Battalion then moved to Perth.

In this year, 1809, the 73rd, together with several other Highland regiments, were ordered to discontinue the Highland dress owing to its being considered a detriment to recruiting, and to adopt that of the British regiments of the line, an order which gave rise to much correspondence and a certain amount of dissatisfaction, and from that date till it returned to the regiment of its birth in 1882, the tartan disappeared from the ranks of the 73rd. In May 1809 the 73rd marched to Yarmouth, where it embarked for Australia, arriving at Sydney, New South Wales, on New Year's Day 1810. There it remained for four years, taking part in subduing a rising of the colonists shortly after it arrived.

Gborde.

During this time its 2nd Battalion had been stationed in various parts of England and Scotland, and in 1813 it embarked at Harwich with the force under General

Gibbs, intended to aid the Swedish army in Pomerania, and after a few weeks at Stralsund it was detached and joined a force in Hanover under Count Walmoden, after threading its way between several French armies, and moving by forced marches of about 30 miles a day, a truly remarkable performance for a solitary unit. The 73rd joined Walmoden's force near Ghorde on September 16th, when a battle was actually in progress. In fact, Colonel Harris marched the battalion during the night of the 15th and 16th to the sound of the guns, and arrived just as Walmoden's force were being driven back by the French. On its arrival it was at once ordered to charge the centre of the French position, which it did successfully, capturing two guns. The French centre having been pierced, the right then gave way, and finally the whole force retired, leaving 800 dead and 1500 prisoners in the hands of the Allies. It is interesting to note that the 73rd was the only British regiment at this battle, and it is said that the sight of the British uniform, totally unexpected by the French, turned the tide of the fight. No battle honour was granted to the 73rd for this, though many thought at the time that it might have been awarded, especially as the only

Ghorde,
Sept. 16th
1813.

other regiment in British pay, though not belonging to the British army, namely the 3rd Hanoverian Dragoons, was granted the word 'Ghorde' on its colours.

After the battle of Ghorde the 2nd Bat- 1814,
talion was stationed in various parts of Hol- Antwerp.
land, taking part in the attack and capture of Antwerp; and having been quartered in various parts of Belgium, eventually became part of Alten's division of British troops, quartered near Soignies in June 1814, where it remained till summoned to take part in the battle of Waterloo a year later.

In August 1814 the 1st Battalion arrived 1st Bat-
in Ceylon from Australia, and was at once talion 73rd,
engaged in the expedition against the native Ceylon,
King of Kandy, whose capital was entered 1814.
in February 1815, the battalion being then 1815,
split up into various detachments to keep Capture of
order amongst the natives, remaining thus Kandy.
employed till 1816.

The 2nd Battalion, as part of Alten's 2nd Bat-
division, came up in time to turn the scale talion,
in favour of the British at Quatre Bras, and Quatre
at Waterloo two days afterwards it was Bras,
hotly engaged and suffered severely. Dur- 16th, and
ing the day, not only was it charged eleven Waterloo,
times by the French cavalry, but their guns, 18th June
brought close up to where the 73rd stood 1815.
in square, caused very severe loss.

It is interesting here to note the losses of the 42nd and 73rd at these two battles in killed and wounded.

		Quatre Bras	Waterloo
42nd	. .	288	50
73rd	. .	53	289
Total	. .	<u>341</u>	<u>339</u>

Of the officers engaged in the two battles, the 42nd had 24 out of 33 killed and wounded, and the 73rd had 24 out of 25, only one being untouched. The regiment as it stands to-day (1914) is the only one in the British service whose two battalions were both engaged at Waterloo.

2nd Battalion 73rd,
disbanded
4th May
1816.

The downfall of Napoleon, and the consequent peace in Europe, led to a reduction of the British troops, and a year after its arrival in England the 2nd Battalion 73rd was disbanded, 300 of the men being sent to join the 1st Battalion in Ceylon, where, in 1816, it was employed in quelling a revolt that had broken out, headed by some native chiefs. During these operations an isolated detachment under Lc.-Corporal M'Laughlan, stationed at Badulla, was attacked by a large body of natives, and very nearly exterminated before assistance arrived. In

recognition of the gallant conduct of the survivors, the Ceylon Government had four medals struck, for **Lc.-Corporal M'Laughlan and Privates John Wilson, Christopher Sheppard, and William Connor.**

Till 1821 the 73rd remained in Ceylon, **England,** and in that year sailed for England, where **1821.** it was stationed at Weedon.

A long period of peace leaves little of interest to record, and it will be sufficient to state that from 1821 to 1844 the 73rd were stationed in various parts of Scotland, England, and Ireland, the Mediterranean and Channel Islands, and Canada, in which latter place it took part in quelling a rebellion in 1838.

In 1845 the 73rd embarked at Cork for **1845-46,** Cape Town, but on arrival at Rio Janeiro **Monte** in November, it was landed at Monte Video **Video.** on 7th December, and defended that place till July 1846 against a besieging Argentine force.

Embarking on July 21st, the regiment **1846,** sailed for South Africa in the *Apollo* trans- **South** port, which was nearly wrecked at the **Africa.** mouth of the Great Fish River in a tremendous gale. The conduct of the regiment on this occasion was such that the Duke of Wellington, Commander-in-Chief, issued a General Order calling attention to the cool-

Kaffir
War,
1847-48.

Second
Kaffir
outbreak,
1851-53.

ness and courage of the 73rd regiment under such trying circumstances. On arrival at Port Elizabeth the regiment was at once despatched to assist in quelling a rising of the Kaffir nation which had taken place, and it was thus employed till the end of 1848, when it returned to Natal, and from thence to Cape Colony, where it remained till 1850, when the Kaffirs rose, and the 73rd formed part of the force sent against them.

This time the operations were protracted, and it was not till 1853 that the natives surrendered, and the 73rd proceeded to Cape Town.

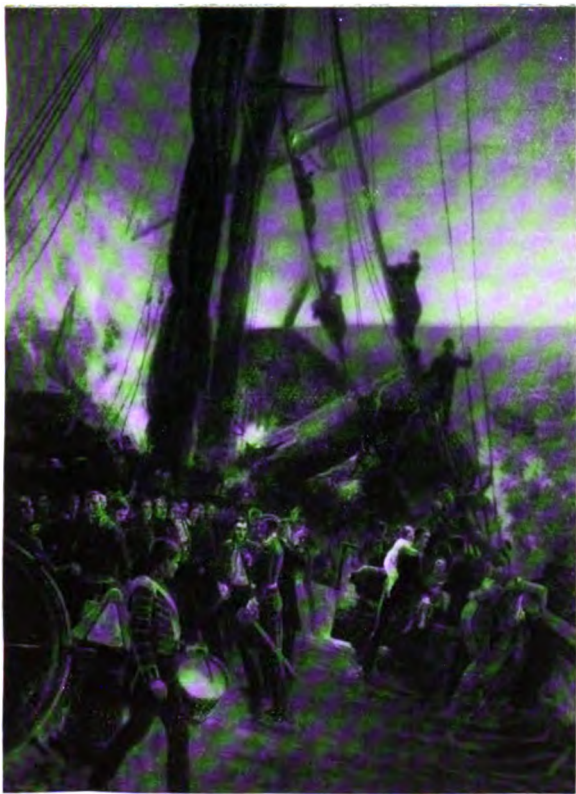
Wreck of the 'Birkenhead.'

Wreck of
the *Birken-*
head, 26th
Feb. 1852.

During this Kaffir War an incident occurred which added no little honour to the 73rd, namely, the wreck of the *Birkenhead*.

The following short account of the episode is taken from Captain Wauchope's *History of the Black Watch* :—

'The *Birkenhead*, when transporting some five hundred soldiers of different regiments to South Africa, struck a rock in Simon's Bay at 2 A.M. on the 26th of February. The soldiers were immediately formed up on the quarter-deck, and the women and



WRECK OF THE 'BIRKENHEAD,' FEBRUARY 26, 1852.

(By permission of Henry Graves & Co., Ltd., London.)

children were passed into the boats. Ten minutes after the vessel struck she broke in two, and finally the captain advised all to jump overboard and swim for the boats. The officers, however, impressed on their men that this would endanger the lives of the women and children, and all stood firm in the ranks while the vessel sank. Three hundred and fifty-seven were drowned, including fifty-six of the 73rd, the largest number of deaths suffered by any one regiment on board.'

It may be mentioned here that so great was the sensation caused by the discipline displayed on this occasion, that the Emperor William I. of Germany ordered an account of the incident to be read to every regiment in his service on three parades.

Trouble having once more arisen with the 1856. Kaffirs, the 73rd were again employed in restoring order.

In 1858 the regiment sailed from East India, London for Calcutta, to take part in quell- 1858-61.
ing the Mutiny, and arrived in Benares late in the year. In 1859 it was broken up into detachments, and was actively employed against the mutineers till the close of the operations, when it was united again at Dinapur.

In 1861 the 73rd embarked at Calcutta for

England,
1861.

England, where on arrival it was stationed at Plymouth, and in the following year (1862), on August 4, the following announcement was made :—

‘ In consideration of the 73rd being raised as the 2nd Battalion the Black Watch, the regiment was to be known as the 73rd Perthshire Regiment.’

Ireland,
1865.
Hong
Kong,
1867.
Ceylon,
1869-74.
India,
1874-81.

The remainder of its existence as a separate regiment was uneventful as regards active service. From England it proceeded to Ireland in 1865, and a year later from thence to Hong Kong, moving to Ceylon in 1869, remaining there for five years, when it was sent to India, where, in 1881, it embarked at Bombay for England, and was quartered at Portsmouth, where, in June of that year, owing to the reorganisation of the British army and the linking up of units, the 73rd came back to its parent regiment, the 42nd, once more as its 2nd Battalion.

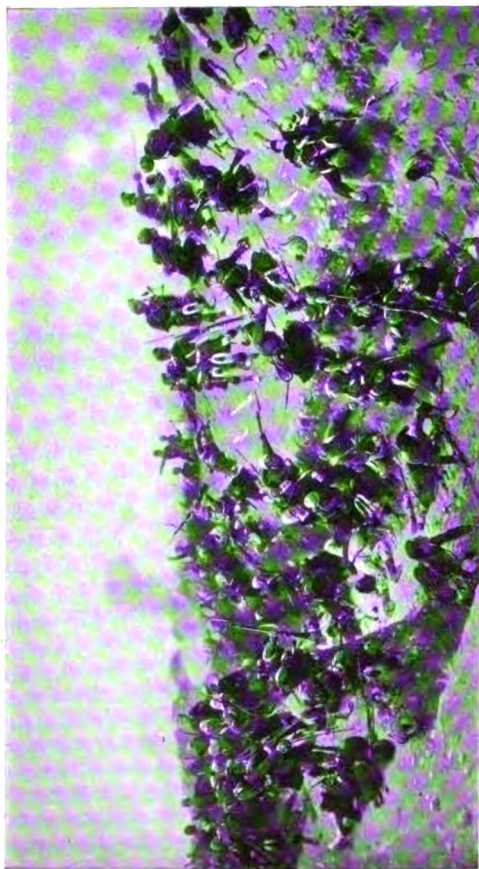
A curious incident may be mentioned here regarding the last ceremonial parade of the 73rd as a separate regiment. The author not only has statements which appeared in print at the time, but also an account written by the officer who actually carried the colour at the time, to corroborate them. The incident is as follows :—

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TEL-EL-KEBIR, SEPTEMBER 13, 1882.

(By permission of The Fine Art Society, 148 New Bond Street, London.)

'The 73rd regiment paraded at Portsmouth to be reviewed for the last time as a separate unit by H.R.H. the Duke of Cambridge before the new territorial system came into operation, and before it became once again the 2nd Battalion Royal Highlanders. The day was windy, and the colours, being old and a good portion shot away, were ill able to stand the breeze. During the parade the Roman numerals LXXIII. (73) on the regimental colour became detached and fluttered to the ground, from which they were rescued by the officer carrying the colour.'

It is more than a little curious that this should have taken place on the last official occasion on which the number LXXIII. was required.

On the outbreak of the rebellion of Arabi Pasha against the Khedive, the 1st Battalion was ordered to proceed to Egypt, and joined the Highland Brigade under Sir Archibald Alison at Ramleh on August 20th. Moving round by sea and the Suez Canal, the whole army, under Sir Garnet Wolseley, including the Highland Brigade, arrived at Ismailia, where it disembarked on September 9th, and concentrated at Kassassin on the 11th. On the night of the 12th Sir Garnet made a night march against Arabi's

Egypt,
1882.

Tel-el-
Kebir, 13th
September
1882.

position at Tel-el-Kebir, and attacking just before daylight rushed the position, the Highland Brigade bearing the brunt of the assault. The attack was entirely successful. Arabi fled, only to be captured a few days later, and the army of occupation shortly afterwards entered Cairo. Here again another honour was added to the Black Watch colours, namely the words 'Tel-el-Kebir.'

1883.
On detach-
ment.

Owing to cholera breaking out in July 1883, the regiment was split up and stationed in different parts of Egypt, assembling again at the end of the year at Cairo, when, in February 1884, it proceeded to Suakim as part of General Graham's force against the hostile tribes of the Eastern Soudan, and took part first in the battle of El Teb on February 29th, and again in that of Tamaai on March 12th, returning to Cairo in April. It was at the battle of Tamaai that Private Thomas Edwards was awarded the Victoria Cross, for conspicuous gallantry in bringing in the body of Lieutenant Almack, R.N., and a machine gun which was in danger of falling into the hands of the enemy.

Suakim,
1884.

Tamaai,
March
12th.

On the 23rd September the 1st Battalion started for Assouan to take part in the relief of General Gordon, at that time besieged by the Mahdi at Khartoum, and on





February 10th 1885 took part in the battle of Kirbekan, carrying the Arab position at the point of the bayonet, a detachment also taking part in the affair at the wells at Abu Klea. On February 23rd, while still advancing, news reached Lord Wolseley that Khartoum had fallen, and that General Gordon and his entire force had been annihilated; and the column, having thus lost its object, returned to Cairo, the 1st Battalion Black Watch remaining there till May 1886, when it was ordered to Malta. Throughout the stay of the battalion in the island, its good conduct and efficiency won the highest praise of the inspecting generals, and on its departure for Gibraltar, in August 1889, the Governor published an exceedingly complimentary Order.

Kirbekan,
February
10th 1885.

Malta,
1886.

Gibraltar,
August
1889.

During the stay of the 1st Battalion in Malta. Her Majesty Queen Victoria sanctioned the wearing of the Royal Stuart Tartan by the pipers, which had been discontinued in 1882 on the reorganisation of the Army and the linking up of regiments.

While the 1st Battalion was employed in Egypt, the 2nd Battalion was stationed in Dublin, and was there used to quell disturbances in the north, an unpleasant duty, which was carried out in a most exemplary manner. From 1888 to 1892 it was stationed

2nd Bat-
talion,
Dublin,
1882-86.

Belfast,
1888.

Limerick,
Glasgow,
1892.
Edin-
burgh,
1896.

at Belfast and Limerick, eventually moving first to Glasgow, and from thence to Edinburgh, where it remained till 1896.

After three years stay at Gibraltar the 1st Battalion received orders to move headquarters and four companies to Mauritius, and the remaining companies to Cape Colony, but in consequence of the political unrest in Egypt, it was detained there on the way out, and after a stay of a month at Cairo resumed its journey.

Egypt, 5th
February
1893.

Matabele-
land.

During the stay of this detachment in South Africa, the natives of Matabeleland rose against the settlers, and a small expedition was sent against them. Sixteen men of the Battalion were selected to form part of a composite company of mounted infantry, and served throughout the operations, receiving the medal.

India,
1896.

Umballa,
1896 to
January
1898.

Sitapur,
January
1898 to
November
22nd 1901.

On January 25th 1896, the Cape Town detachment sailed for Mauritius, and picking up the remainder of the battalion there, the whole proceeded to Bombay, where it arrived on February 17th, and journeyed by train to Umballa, there to remain till January 29th 1898, when it exchanged stations with the Shropshire Light Infantry, then at Sitapur, with a detachment at Benares. On several occasions in 1899 and 1900 the 1st Battalion were placed under orders either

for active service on the Frontier or in China, or to relieve other units, but in every case the move was cancelled, and the battalion remained at Sitapur till 22nd November 1901, when, having been placed under orders for active service in South Africa, it left for Deolali, and embarking at Bombay on December 6th, reached Durban on the 22nd, landed and proceeded to Elands River Bridge. South Africa, December 1901.

At the end of 1896 the 2nd Battalion moved from Edinburgh to York, and from thence in 1898 to Aldershot. It was in October 1899 that President Kruger declared war with Great Britain, on behalf of the two South African Republics—the Transvaal and Orange Free State—and reinforcements were hurriedly despatched from England. One of the first units to go was the 2nd Battalion, which, landing at Cape Town on November 14th 1899, joined the Highland Brigade, commanded by Major-General A. G. Wauchope, an old Black Watch officer, ‘whose military attainments and reputation were no less remarkable than the devotion entertained for him by the soldiers under his command.’¹ The Highland Brigade formed part of the first 2nd Battalion, York, 1896-98. Aldershot, 1898.
South Africa, November 1899.

¹ These words faintly express the esteem in which General Wauchope was held by all who were privileged to know him.

Magersfontein, 10th December 1899.

division, under Lord Methuen, but with the exception of the 1st Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, did not join it till December 8th, thus missing Modder River. Three days later Lord Methuen decided to attack the Boers under Cronje at Magersfontein, and on the night of Sunday, December 10th, the attempt was made, with disastrous results, by the Highland Brigade; for the Boers, strongly entrenched behind wire entanglements, opened such a terrific fire that the column was mowed down before it had time to deploy for attack. General Wauchope himself was one of the first to fall, and near to him also fell Colonel Coode, commanding the 2nd Battalion. Left without orders, any further organised movement was well-nigh impossible, but yet, as at Ticonderoga, several men of the regiment, with others of the brigade, attempted to reach the enemy, only to be caught in the wire entanglements and shot down.¹ The Battalion went into action 943 strong, and lost 301 killed and wounded. Out of 27 officers, 17 were killed and wounded.

January 6th and 7th 1900, Koodoosberg Drift.

Two months later the 2nd Battalion, with the Highland Brigade, now commanded by General Macdonald, met the Boers at Koo-

¹ Again, as at Ticonderoga, some of the 2nd Battalion got through all obstacles and reached the Boer trenches.

doosberg, and helped to clear them from a very strong position. It was also present at Paardeberg, on the Modder River, where General Cronje and a large force of Boers were surrounded, and were present at the surrender of the whole of Cronje's army on the anniversary of Majuba. Again, on March 7th, the 2nd Battalion took part in the action at Poplar Grove, and two days later in that at Driefontein, after which, on March 15th, it entered Bloemfontein, the capital of the Orange River Free State, with Lord Roberts's army. The latest historian of the regiment, alluding to this time, writes us as follows: 'Hard marching, occasional fighting in the Orange Free State, was the lot of the Black Watch for the next six months, and they were especially praised in Lord Roberts's despatch regarding the action at Babraansberg. On July 17th the battalion marched 34 miles in 15½ hours, and on the 23rd, during the operations about Retief's Neck, five companies carried a strong Boer position in fine style, with a loss of 2 officers and 17 men.' The capture of this position was one of the chief factors in preventing 'the escape of the Boers (under Prinsloo), and led to the taking of 4300 prisoners.'

March 7th,
Poplar
Grove.

The 2nd Battalion was employed on de-

2nd Bat-
talion.

Detachment Duty
in Natal,
1901.
October
1902, 1st
Battalion
to Edinburgh,
2nd
Battalion
to Umballa.

tachment duty, and on various columns, for the remainder of the war, and at the conclusion of peace in June 1902 was sent to Harrismith, where the 1st Battalion already had its headquarters, and where they remained till October, when both left South Africa, the 1st going to Edinburgh and the 2nd to Umballa.

For its services during the late war, the regiment was granted the distinction of having the words 'South Africa, 1899-1902,' and 'Paardeberg,' added to those already on its colours.

1904-6, 1st
Battalion,
Fort
George.
Curragh,
1906-9.

After two years in Edinburgh, during which it had the honour of receiving the South African Medal from the hands of His Majesty King Edward, the 1st Battalion moved to Fort George, and thence to the Curragh in 1906.

In 1904 the 5th Royal Scots, Canadian Highlanders, became an allied regiment of the Black Watch, and later, in 1908, the Scottish Rifles of New South Wales followed their example.

Limerick,
1909-11.

The 1st Battalion moved from the Curragh to Limerick in 1909, and after two years' stay in that city returned to Edinburgh in September 1911.

The 2nd Battalion moved from Sialkote to Calcutta in 1912, proceeding thither *via*

Delhi, where it took part in the Durbar celebrations, during which it received new colours from the hands of His Majesty the King-Emperor.

MILITIA

No history of the regiment, however short, would be complete without mention of the 3rd Battalion, now the Special Reserve Battalion, and of the 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th Territorial Battalions.

The 3rd Battalion descends from the Royal Perthshire Militia, raised in 1803. 3rd Battalion, raised 1803. There had been an earlier regiment of Perth Militia, raised in 1798, but this was disbanded in 1802 after an existence of only four years. Many of the men of the original regiment, together with its colonel, the Duke of Atholl, joined the new corps, which was given the designation of 68th Royal Perthshire Militia.

For the first few years of its existence it was embodied and employed in various parts of England and Scotland, taking the place of regular troops employed in the Peninsular War, and was disembodied in 1814.

Crimea,
Embodied
1854.

From 1814 till the Crimean War in 1854 the Militia generally were unemployed, and little notice was taken of them, but on the outbreak of war with Russia, many Militia regiments were embodied, amongst them being the 3rd Battalion, which by this time had changed its name, and was known as the Royal Perthshire Rifles. After two years' service the regiment was disembodied in 1856 ; and the following year, on the outbreak of the Indian Mutiny, it volunteered for service in India or elsewhere, which offer, though not accepted, called forth the thanks of Her Majesty Queen Victoria.

3rd Bat-
talion the
Black
Watch,
1881.

1882.
Volun-
teered for
service in
Egypt.

1889-1900,
Embodied.

In 1881, on the adoption of the linked battalion system, the Perthshire Militia became the 3rd (Militia) Battalion the Black Watch, and the following year it volunteered for service in Egypt, an offer which, however, was not accepted.

On the outbreak of the South African War the 3rd Battalion was again embodied, and during this period it sent out several drafts to the 2nd Battalion, and after serving at Montrose for a year was disembodied in December 1900.

1909,
Designa-
tion
changed
from
Militia to

1909 brought radical changes, not only in name, but in conditions of service, to all Militia Battalions, and the 3rd Battalion

became the 3rd Special Reserve Battalion the Black Watch, those who joined it being liable for active service abroad, a totally new condition, but one which was welcomed by all ranks.

Special
Reserve.

TERRITORIAL, LATE VOLUNTEER, BATTALIONS

Want of space must be the excuse for the following very short account of our four Territorial Battalions.

The 4th Battalion, late 1st (Dundee) Volunteer Battalion, raised in 1859 as the 1st Forfarshire (Dundee) Rifles, was affiliated to the Black Watch in 1881, changing its name to the 5th Volunteer Battalion the Black Watch six years later.

4th (Terri-
torial)
Battalion
the Black
Watch.

During the South African War this Battalion sent out three Service Companies, men from the remaining Black Watch Volunteer Battalions being allowed to join them.

In 1859 Independent Volunteer Companies were raised in different parts of Forfarshire by Colonel John Kinloch, and a year later these were organised into two Battalions, the 1st and 2nd Forfarshire Rifles, which were amalgamated in 1874, changing the

5th (Terri-
torial)
Battalion
the Black
Watch.

name in 1880 to the 2nd Forfarshire (Angus) Rifle Volunteers, which the following year was affiliated to the Black Watch as the 2nd (Angus) Volunteer Battalion.

6th (Territorial)
Battalion
the Black
Watch.

Raised in 1859 from various companies of Perthshire men as the 1st Perth Volunteers, this Battalion was affiliated to the Black Watch as the 4th (Perthshire) Volunteer Battalion in 1888.

The Glenalmond School Cadet Corps, from its formation in 1875 up to 1908, when it became an Officers' Training Corps, was affiliated to this Battalion.

7th (Territorial)
Battalion
the Black
Watch.

This Battalion came into existence in 1860 as the 1st Fifeshire Rifles, and in 1888 became the 6th (Fife) Volunteer Battalion the Black Watch.

In 1908 the whole Volunteer force was reorganised, and the above-mentioned units became the 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th (Territorial) Battalions the Black Watch, and as such are now known.

AFFILIATED COLONIAL REGIMENTS

CANADA

*5th Regiment Royal Highlanders
of Canada.*

In 1861, during the war in the United States between the North and South, a storm of indignation swept England and her colonies, caused by a United States warship daring to stop a British mail-boat (s.s. *Trent*).

Canada, whose sympathy was with the Southern or rebel States, was particularly roused, and, moreover, Canadians were well aware that in the event of war breaking out between England and the United States, their country would assuredly be the scene of operations. With this in view, volunteer corps were raised all over the Dominion, amongst them being the 5th Battalion Royal Light Infantry, which came into being on January 31st 1862, and received its colours, a gift from the ladies of Montreal, on October 11th the same year.

In 1866, and again in 1870, a part of the regiment was employed against the Fenian raiders coming from the United States: the whole regiment was called out in 1877

Raised
Jan. 31st
1862.

Fenian
Raids, 1866
and 1870.

to assist in quelling disturbances caused by the Irish Protestants and Catholics in Montreal, for which it received thanks in General Orders.

South
Africa,
1899.

During the South African War the 5th Royals helped to swell the ranks of the Canadian contingents, sending out 5 officers and 49 N.C.O.'s and men, two of whom, Corporal Goodfellow and Private Wadsell, gave their lives for the Empire.

Dress.

Many changes have taken place in the dress of our allied regiment, and it was not till 1883 that the whole regiment adopted the kilt, a few years later substituting the distinctive Black Watch tartan for that previously worn, and in 1895 feather bonnets became the head-dress. From this date onwards minor changes have taken place at various times, and to-day (1914), with the exception of badges and sporran, the '5th Royals' are dressed in exactly the same uniform as the Black Watch.

AUSTRALIA

*1st Battalion New South Wales Scottish
Rifle Regiment.*

Unfortunately the author is not in possession of any history relating to this

regiment, an account of which must therefore await a subsequent edition.

Thus ends this short history of our regiment. Much has necessarily been left out owing to lack of space, but should any one be desirous of studying its history to a fuller extent, and all who belong to the regiment should lose no opportunity of so doing, there are numerous books which tell its tale, notably *The History of the Highlands*, by Colonel Stewart of Garth ; *The Black Watch*, by Captain Wauchope ; and *The Black Watch*, by Archibald Forbes, brought up to date by a former commanding officer, from which the following words are taken :—

‘ Those who were present at the first roll-call of the regiment on the banks of the Tay, never dreamt that one hundred and seventy years afterwards the Black Watch would, with its seven battalions, muster over five thousand men. Yet this number, under the present organisation, is the strength of the regiment to-day. With two allied battalions in Canada, one in New South Wales, a battalion in India, and six at home, the Black Watch is helping to guard the greatest Empire the world has ever seen, and in the creation of which it has played

an important part. Scotland, with its small population, can justly claim to have given a large proportion of splendid regiments to our army. Each of these, whether Highland or Lowland, has made devotion to duty the pole-star of its career. Foremost among them stands the Black Watch, to whose heroic failures, splendid successes, and undying glories posterity will ever pay a generous tribute.'



